

THE GRAND ARMY.

What is Being Done by the Veterans for the Good of the Order.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

CALIFORNIA.—John A. Martin Post passed resolutions on the death of Col. Charles Treschler, Governor of the N. H. D. V. S. The Home has lost a kind and beneficent officer, while the kind and beneficent duties, was lent to the utmost extent of his power to the frailties and misfortunes of the old veterans in his charge, and who, while stern in his repression of willful transgression, was lenient and always a lenient and kindly feeling for misfortune and illness.

On the anniversary of its institution Butler Post, Chicago, with members of its W. R. C. and comrades from other Posts, numbering in all over a hundred, were surprised Comrade Keeler, a member of the Post.

Columbus Post was present at a meeting of the Lincoln Post, Chicago, recently, and carried a special program prepared for the occasion.

Grant Post, Chicago, mustered a number of recruits at their last meeting.

MASSACHUSETTS.—Assistant Inspector M. R. Canfield, W. F. Harrington, Aid-de-Camp of the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Chaplain Cranston, Aid-de-Camp Campbell, and 17 members of Rockwell Post, of Pittsfield, were the guests of Scott Bradley Post, on the evening of April 23. Aid-de-Camp Harrington and Campbell, Inspector Canfield, Chaplain Cranston, Commander Bradley, and Dr. Wilcox were the principal speakers.

Reino Post, H. Hanson, held a grand Campfire on April 20. Department Commander Withers, Ass't Adj't-Gen. Moore, Ass't Q. M. Gen. Downs, Secretary of State: Gen. Kimball, of Fitchburg; a delegation of 45 from Fitchburg Post, 100 from Merrimack Post, 39 from Clinton, 25 from Acton, 10 from Berlin, eight from Bolton, were guests of the Post. A pleasant incident of the evening was the presentation to Reginald F. Rogers, by the State, of a State certificate of War Records by Congressman Apley, who sent a letter, with a promise of 40 additional volumes as soon as they are issued.

NEW MEXICO.—The Council of Administration met in the office of the Department Commander at Albuquerque on the evening of April 18.

The 11th annual Encampment of this Department met in Albuquerque on April 18. The program was a most interesting and profitable one. The roll call by the Assistant Adjutant-General, Vice-Commander Ross was called to the chair, and the Department Commander read his annual report.

At the afternoon session, April 19, Gen. Fairchild, Past Commander-in-Chief, was introduced by the Commander in a few appropriate words.

Gen. Fairchild addressed the Encampment for an hour, and his remarks were listened to with great deal of interest, and received with most emphatic marks of approbation.

The Encampment instructed its delegates to the Convention for holding the next National Encampment.

George W. Knebel was elected Department Commander; S. V. C. Caldwell; J. V. C. John; Hyland; Chap. Thomas Harwood; Medical Director, F. E. Olney.

NEW YORK.—Manassah Post, Brooklyn, gave an interesting drill on the evening of April 19, in which over 200 men and women took part. Music was furnished by Manassah Post Drum Corps. The scene surrounding the drill was the wives, daughters and friends of the Post, and the utmost enthusiasm was manifested. This was the third of a series preparatory of the 23rd Annual Encampment, to be held at Middletown, Conn., on Memorial Day, to which the first pilgrimage was in 16 years will be made.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Department Commander and staff will begin their visits to Posts during the early part of May.

Past Commander Simmons, of Naval Post, 400, Philadelphia, is President of the Pittsburgh Post, and that Post is expected that the club will recruit a large number of comrades before the Encampment, and will be able to make a good showing there in the parade.

A reception will be given in honor of Commander Ensign and Baker Post, of Philadelphia, on May 3.

A Campfire and entertainment was given by Pennsylvania Reserve Post, 191, the other evening, and was largely attended by friends of the Post.

VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.—The 23rd annual Encampment of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina was held April 11, at the Headquarters of John K. Clegg Post, Ft. Hampton, Va.

The following names were chosen as officers for the ensuing year: Dep't Com. Joseph G. Fulton, Fort Monroe, Va.; S. V. C. H. W. Wells, Esposito, Va.; J. V. C. D. Chavers, Richmond, Va.; Medical Director, A. B. Richardson, Atlantic City-Norfolk, Va.; Dep't Chap. North, Carney, Portsmouth, Va.; Ass't Adj't-Gen. W. H. Eaton, Portsmouth, Va.; Ass't Q. M. Gen., J. W. Rutter, Portsmouth, Va.

The attendance at the Encampment was quite large, and the utmost harmony prevailed throughout the entire session.

The Encampment was visited by the National Aid for this State, Mrs. Amelia Colgan, and a very interesting statement was made by her of the excellent work being done by the Woman's Relief Corps within the boundaries of the Department. There are 21 Corps, with a membership of nearly 800.

A very interesting feature of this session was the introduction of a series of resolutions by Past Junior Vice-Commander Edward Edmond, Past Department Commander Edgar Allen, which were adopted by a rising vote, viz:

Resolved, That the 23rd annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, hereby express their most cordial approval of the efforts made by the Hon. W. A. Fenderson, Governor of Virginia, in Delegates, to have engraved upon the statute book of Virginia a resolution, to be read at the opening of the flag of our Union to the public schools of the Commonwealth, and we will the effort as an evidence of our appreciation of our National Government.

Resolved, That we regret the failure of the Senate of Virginia to pass the resolution, but we express the hope that the next Legislature of the State will enact this patriotic measure upon our statute-book.

Resolved, That we also introduce on a due appreciation of the work of the Woman's Relief Corps.

REUNIONS.—Annual Meetings and Other Matters Pertaining to Various Organizations.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The 23rd Mass. Light Battery Association held a Reunion in Boston on April 19. It elected officers as follows: President, Serg't G. F. Pinkerton, V. P. Serg't George H. Lincoln; Sec. and Treas., W. C. Simmons; Executive Committee, the above officers, and Lieut. C. W. Beal, J. H. Graham, J. H. Rankin, William Jones and James T. Neill.

The 10th Mass. Battery Association held its Reunion in Boston this year. The election resulted: Pres., Milroy Green; V.-P., George H. Day and John D. Hillings; Sec. and Treas., Augustus C. White; Executive Committee, James E. Courant, Charles Clark, Stephen H. Johnson, Patrick E. Nagle, William B. Lemmon.

The 33rd anniversary of its departure from the front was celebrated by Co. G, 3d Mass. in Cambridge.

The Boston Light Artillery elected officers as follows at its meeting the other evening: Pres., J. W. Richardson; V.-P., James Waters; Sec., Nathaniel T. Trumbull; Treas., Edward Morrill; Executive Committee, Gardner F. Cheever, A. P. Martin, and Nathaniel Trumbull.

MISCELLANEOUS.—W. K. Shaffer, Beaver Falls, Pa., who served in the 11th Pa. Cav., would like to meet any of his comrades at the Encampment, Pittsburg, next September. He wishes them to write him so that a place of meeting can be appointed.

James H. Smith, Newark, N. J., the National Association of Mexican War Veterans will hold its 21st annual Reunion at Mauch Chunk, Pa., May 8. That date is the 48th anniversary of Palo Alto, the opening battle of the war.

NEW YORK.—The members of the 27th N. Y., the 33d N. Y., and the 1st N. Y. Cav., will hold a joint annual Reunion at Portage Bridge in July.

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Noble soldier, pure patriot, pioneer in the glorious cause of the education of the children of Americans, patriot of patriots, he has, alas, gone. But he has left us his work as a precious legacy; let us take it up and carry it forward to completion.

Among the last letters of Col. Balch were several addressed to the Editor of this department, expressing his gratitude for assistance given and saying that he had received more encouragement in a few months from the women of the Relief Corps than he had taken up with his fellow-workers in the National Tribune, than he had in the eight years during which he had been confining his efforts to the teachers of the land.

It is pleasant to know that this grand old man was permitted to taste of the fruits of his labors before his death. The accounts appearing from time to time in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE of the kindly and loving work of the Relief Corps, particularly the formal adoption of the flag salute by the 60 San Francisco schools, gave him joy.

But even more happy was he in the assurance that the flag salute would be introduced into the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan's Home, Xenia, O., saying that "Certainly both teaching patriotism and the declaration of independence should be accessible to the children of those who gave their lives to their country."

Our whole system of school training for a century has been un-American in the last degree, and is largely so to-day. But we are fast waking up to the fact that our Government and all our experiences are different from those of monarchies, and all our teachings should be different.

To give my idea form I spent six weeks in May and June, 1891, visiting the 21 schools of the Children's Aid Society, training, drilling and talking to the young and the old, and the teachers and the parents, and finally what steps had been taken or what special exercises were observed to awaken and stimulate a spirit of patriotism in the young and the old.

The teachers welcomed the movement in all these schools, and especially the principals, who found a keen appreciation of the importance of the work, and were anxious to do a distinctly American ideal, of how important it was that the child should understand just what the school was for, and what the children were to do, and what the teachers were to do, and what the parents were to do.

Preparing the draft of a letter which I presented to all the Department Presidents of the W. R. C. in regard to how best and practically take up and carry forward the mighty work they have undertaken, and the word "loyalty" was taken up by the children of shaping and fixing the habits of thought of 15,000,000 school children is a mighty problem and a vast responsibility, and that is precisely what I have for years been trying to do.

"I have for years been trying to do this, and the educators of the land for sympathy and aid in this work, but I have made more progress through the zeal and inspiration of the few women who have taken up the work of patriotic fire during the last two months than in my previous four years of labor with those whom we suppose are the ones to look up to. You may rest assured, therefore, that an heart and hand with the W. R. C. and the loyal women of the U. S. A."

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"Sooner or later, say, when the W. R. C. has become conversant with the new duties growing out of this new work in the schools, they must act in unity, one great body, on the common ground of patriotism, the education of women through the country, such as Ladies of the G. A. R., Daughters of Veterans, Daughters of the Revolution, the Colonial Daughters, Loyal Women of American Liberty, and all others.

"I certainly believe the W. R. C. will make the patriotic work a magnificent success, but if I could only give to you, as I have done, yet, to make any marked impression in the direction of 15,000,000 public-school children, 130,000 members of the W. R. C. will not entirely, indeed cannot, occupy the whole field. Hence, the need of cooperation with others. Please think this matter over, so it can take form at Pittsburg in September."

In the following biographic sketch Wallace Foster, the editor of this department, has just completed the work of the patriotic work our illustrious exemplar has accomplished.

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In these schools tens of thousands of the children of the very poor, of nearly every race on the face of the earth, and of every color, and of every nationality, were being taught, by speaking a foreign language, irregular hours, or other reasons—to attend the public schools, and were taught what it means to be clean, orderly, respectful and obedient to authority, industrious, truthful, honest, and pure.

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